THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Religious tourism in Orissa**

409. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the cultural and religious heritage centre of Buddhism and sea-route is a convenient mode of travel for South-East Asian people to visit the large numbers of ancient Buddhist temples located in the State;

(b) whether to boost religious tourism in the State, there is an urgent need to develop auxiliary infrastructure *i.e.* roads etc., which are in bad shape; and

(c) the action plan of the centre to help the cash-strapped State to develop the road infrastructure to boost religious tourism in the State with a view to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

A list of projects sanctioned for the State of Orissa, including religious places, during the Tenth Plan is given in Statement.

***Statement***

Religious Tourism in Orissa

*Projects sanctioned to the State of Orissa during the Tenth Plan*

(Rs. in lakh)

| SI. No. | Name of Project/Scheme | Amount sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 2002-03 | |
| 1. | Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur | 50.00 |
| 2. | Computerisation of office and its Groups | 7.50 |
| | TOTAL | 57.50 |

| 1 | 2 | | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2003-04 | | |
| 1. | Development of Puri as a Tourist destination | | 394.55 |
| 2. | Konark Festival, 2002 | | 5.00 |
| 3. | Folk Dance Festival, 2003-04 | | 5.00 |
| 4. | Rajarani Music Festival, 2003-04 | | 5.00 |
| 5. | Buddha Mahotsav | | 10.00 |
| | | TOTAL | 419.55 |
| | 2004-05 | | |
| 1. | Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda) under Dest. Development | | 488.51 |
| 2. | Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa — Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit | | 740.67 |
| 3. | Shreekshetra Vasant Festival at Puri | | 15.00 |
| 4. | Kharvela Festival, 2004-05 | | 5.00 |
| 5. | GOl-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Software) | | 20.00 |
| 6. | GOl-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Raghurajpur in Puri Distt. (Software) | | 20.00 |
| 7. | Development of Village Pipli in Puri Distt. (Hardware) | | 50.00 |
| | | TOTAL | 1339.18 |
| | 2005-06 | | |
| 1. | Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam) | | 447.22 |
| 2. | Development of Sakhi Gopal (Distt. Puri) | | 460.96 |
| 3. | Development of Taptapani in Distt Ganjam as Tourist Destination | | 500.00 |
| 4. | Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri-Konark | | 720.09 |
| 5. | Development of Chilka Lake (Distt. Puri and Ganjam) as Tourist Destination | | 389.05 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj | 50.00 |
| 7. | Shreekshetra Festival at Puri | 15.00 |
| 8. | Puri Beach Festival, 2005 | 4.00 |
| 9. | Konark Festival, 2005 | 3.00 |
| 10. | Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar | 3.00 |
| | TOTAL | 2592.32 |
| | **2006-07** | |
| 1. | Development of Simlipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj as a tourist destination | 297.12 |
| 2. | Puri Beach Festival, 2006 | 05.00 |
| 3. | Konark Festival, 2006 | 05.00 |
| 4. | Ekamra Utsav, 2007 | 10.00 |
| 5. | Shreekshetra Vasant Utsav, 2006 | 10.00 |
| 6. | Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talsari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchlingeswar-Nilagiri Circuit | 800.00 |
| 7. | Development of Village Barpali, Distt. Baragarh, Rural Tourism (Hardware) | 50.00 |
| 8. | Development of Village Hirapur. Distt. Khurda, Rural Tourism (Hardware) | 50.00 |
| 9. | Development of Village Padmanavpur, Distt. Ganjam, Rural Tourism (Hardware) | 50.00 |
| 10. | Development of Village Deulajhari. Distt. Angul, Rural Tourism (Hardware) | 50.00 |
| 11. | Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit "Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar as a tourist circuit in Orissa | 692.00 |
| 12. | Development of Eco-Tourism at Bhitarkanika | 383.22 |
| 13. | Development of Satkosia as a Tourist Destination in Orissa | 424.50 |
| | TOTAL | 2826.84 |